

THE RESPONDER

December 2009

Giving Back To The Community



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Alexandria Fire Department
900 Second Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
703.838.4600

This newsletter written and compiled by:
Captain Luis Santano
PIO / Community Services Officer

On the web!
www.alexandriava.gov/fire

Thanks to the efforts and generosity of so many in the Alexandria Fire Department, Community Engagement had a special meaning for many children during the month of December. The Black Fire Service Professionals of Alexandria (BFSPA), Alexandria Fire Department Children's Holiday Toy Drive and the Marine Corp's Toys for Tots campaign collected hundreds of toys for children of all ages.

The BFSPA hosted their ninth annual toy party at the Mark Center Hilton, Sunday, December 27, 2009. Mayor Bill Euille and 115 children and their families



Assistant Chief Snead presents winner of bike drawing.

attended the toy party. Santa (John Morehead III), Spiderman, Sponge Bob and Alexandria's Hot Topic All Stars cheerleading group, were on hand to ensure all children enjoyed the holiday festivities. Toys and gifts were distributed to the all children that attended; in addition, there was a drawing to give away four brand new bicycles. This year BFSPA partnered with Paul

Darby, President of Coats For Kids Foundation, to provide each child with a new winter coat.

The toy party is funded each year through BFSPA organizational funds and through donations from the community. Hilton Alexandria Mark Center provided the lunch and the space to hold the event.

The Alexandria Fire Department Children's Holiday toy drive, now in its 9th year, completed another very suc-

cessful year thanks to the efforts of Mike Chandler, Fire Department personnel



Santa and Elves deliver toys to Inova's Pediatric Ward

and the local community. This year, donations and gifts were distributed to; the ALIVE Child Development Center; The Alexandria Women's and Children Shelter, and I-nova Alexandria Hospital's Pediatric and Neo-Natal ICU.

The ALIVE (ALEXandrians INVolved Ecumenically) Child Development Center received many new toys, blocks, books and games for their 35 children. New hats and gloves were also purchased for the kids. The teachers and children were very appreciative of

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Giving Back to the Community.....continued

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the Fire Department donation.

The Alexandria Women's and Children's shelter held their Holiday party with over 100 children and their mothers in attendance. A major portion of the gifts for their party came from the Fire Department toy drive. Many mothers in the shelter received warm coats, hats and gloves. Pre-teen and young teenage residents used donated gift cards to purchase gifts for themselves, their parents and siblings.

The I-nova Alexandria Hospital's pediatric ward and neo-natal ICU received a visit from Santa and the

TOYS FOR TOTS



U. S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE

For more information visit www.toysfortots.org

Printing donated by Wells Fargo Financial, proud sponsor of the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation

elves of E206-B. They restocked the pediatric ward, distributed toys, books, games, crayons, relaxing music/CD's and stuffed animals, to the young patients. Nurses received a slushy machine and some special feeding chairs to help make their jobs easier as they care for the youngsters throughout the year.

The Marine Corp's Toys for Tots campaign concluded on Thursday, December 24. Alexandria Fire Department collected around 2,420 toys between November 18 and December 24. Department personnel delivered the truckload of toys to Children's Hospital. Lieutenant Cook and members of Webelos Pack 1107 managed the pick up and transfer of the toys to a storage bin at the PDC.

2010, A New Decade ...submitted by Captain Bayliss

As the year ends, a quick look back reveals the strides we have made in changing the safety culture in our department and City. The past year was dominated by bedbugs, MRSA, and the H1N1 Flu. These issues will carry into the decade but we now have a better understanding of all three and are better equipped to handle most concerns with these issues.

The Health and Safety Unit's goals for 2010 will be to continue the safety cultural change and reduce the number of accidents, injuries, and safety issues



we face daily. We must remove some of the stumbling blocks in order to



accomplish these goals. Every member of our department from every division, must assist in this effort. There is a misconception that reporting an issue is the end of an employee's involvement. Often times this is not the case. Follow-up by all concerned parties is a must as most solutions involve many members from different divisions to accomplish the desired outcome. All parties must communi-

cate their feedback effectively and at the same time realize some changes will be determined by their fiscal impact on the Department and City. Be persistent but also reasonable in your concerns and most of all, be patient.



The Health and Safety Unit looks forward to a safer decade and welcomes your suggestions and concerns. Together, we can make a difference!

In The Community....



Firefighter Doug Townshend (Santa) surprises a young fan.

Fire Station 201 Open House



Battalion Chief Mike Brown shares a little fire department history with Councilman Fannon.



Two Santa's



Captain Santano and Firefighter Harrison dress students in protective gear.

Career Day presentation to Liberty's Promise students



Liberty's Promise students pose with firefighter Harrison



Polk Elementary School Cub Scouts visit fire station 206 for Emergency Preparedness / Fire Prevention tips.

Del Ray Citizens Association's Annual Holiday Party at Pottomac Yard fire station, 209



City Sustains Record Snow Fall

The snow storm of December 20, 2009 was the biggest the City had experienced since 1922. More than 300 city employees participated in the emergency response effort. The Emergency Command Center (EOC) was activated utilizing the National Incident Command System (NIMS). The EOC was staffed around the clock for 72 hours. City Manager Jim Hartmann was the incident commander who coordinated snow removal, emergency responses to residents and provided information with the help of 14 city de-

partments. Chief Thiel was assigned Operations.

The storm generated a 50-percent increase in emergency calls. Fire Department personnel with the help of the Sheriff's office cleared snow from hydrants in high target areas. Medic units and fire apparatus could not move in 20 inches of snow, Fire Chief Adam Thiel said, so prioritizing plowing objectives was essential. Totals of the storm's cost to the city are estimated to

likely exceed \$1 million.

City Response Totals:

- City departments involved:	14
- Total City staff hours:	3,650+
- City employees involved in :	300+
- Contracted snow removal workers:	71
- Equipment pieces deployed:	91
- Miles of street plowed/treated:	521



Awards and Recognition



Derek Derzanki has completed the FTO program and passed his final test. He is now a cut loose ALS provider.



Joe Beavan promoted to Captain



Eric Kriesher Promoted to Captain

Last Call

Retired Firefighter Ed Trice

Retirements and Farewells



Kip Anderson
30 Years of Service



Tim Quist
5 Years of Service

November Communications Statistics

FIRE ALARM HEADQUARTERS CALLS PROCESSED	
911	1065
Administration Received	4946
Administration Dialed	1794
Dispatched Calls	
Total calls	7,880

November Run Statistics

	Unit	EMS	SUP	TOTAL	Current Yr	Previous Yr
Station 201	E201	30	100	130	1,329	1,422
Station 202	M202	152	27	179	2,051	2,205
Station 203	E203	37	47	84	1,104	1,265
	T203	5	65	70	917	954
Total		42	112	154	2,021	2,219
Station 204	E204	38	75	113	1,244	1,319
	T204	9	117	126	1,328	1,389
Total		47	192	239	5,572	2,708
Station 205	E205	55	106	161	1,921	2,127
	M205	168	41	209	2,801	2,857
Total		223	147	370	4,722	4,984
Station 206	E206	70	108	178	1,926	1,974
	M206	181	44	225	2,625	2,806
	R206	0	0	0	234	534
Total		251	152	403	4,785	5,314
Station 207	E207	75	89	164	1,987	2,230
	M207	169	42	211	2,309	2,469
Total		244	131	375	4,296	4,699
Station 208	E208	130	142	272	2,669	2,828
	M208	217	56	273	2,775	2,877
	T208	40	109	149	1,324	1,366
Total		387	307	694	6,768	7,071
Station 209	E209	56	65	121	1,306	1,306
	H209	0	0	0	0	0
Total		56	65	121	1,306	1,306
Station totals		1,432	1,233	2,665	29,850	31,979